UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

13.14 SEASON

Vijay Iyer In Concert

Thursday, November 21, 2013
7:30 p.m. Walter Hall
Edward Johnston Building

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Vijay Iyer in Concert

Vijay Iyer is the Wilma and Clifford Smith Visitor in Music

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage

Grammy-nominated composer-pianist Vijay Iyer (pronounced "VID-jay EYE-yer") has been described by *Pitchfork* as "one of the most interesting and vital young pianists in jazz today," by *The New Yorker* as one of "today's most important pianists… extravagantly gifted… brilliantly eclectic," and by the *Los Angeles Weekly* as "a boundless and deeply important young star." His critical accolades continue in the form of awards and chart topping recognition, having received an unprecedented "quintuple crown" in the *DownBeat* International Critics Poll (winning Jazz Artist of the Year, Pianist of the Year, Jazz Album of the Year, Jazz Group of the Year, and Rising Star Composer categories); four top awards in the *JazzTimes* Critics Poll (Artist of the Year, Pianist of the Year, Composer of the Year and Best Acoustic/Mainstream Group of the Year for the Vijay Iyer Trio); as well as the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award and the Greenfield Prize; all in 2012 alone. He was named one of the "50 Most Influential Global Indians" by *GQ India*, and was voted Musician of the Year (2010) and Pianist of the Year (2012 & 2013) by the Jazz Journalists Association. He recently received a 2013 Echo Award (the "German Grammy") for International Pianist of the Year.

Iyer has released sixteen albums as a leader; his most recent, *Accelerando* (2012) is the widely acclaimed follow-up to the multiple award-winning *Historicity* (2009), both featuring the Vijay Iyer Trio (Iyer, piano; Marcus Gilmore, drums; Stephan Crump, bass), recently described by PopMatters as "the best band in jazz." *Accelerando* was voted #1 Jazz Album of the Year for 2012 in three separate critics polls surveying hundreds of critics worldwide, hosted by *DownBeat*, *JazzTimes*, and *Rhapsody*, respectively, and also was chosen as jazz album of the year by NPR, the *Los Angeles Times*, PopMatters, and Amazon.com. *Historicity* was a 2010 Grammy Nominee for Best Instrumental Jazz Album, and was named #1 Jazz Album of 2009 in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Detroit Metro Times*, National Public Radio, PopMatters.com, the *Village Voice* Jazz Critics Poll, and the *DownBeat* International Critics Poll. The trio won the 2010 Echo Award for Best International Ensemble and the 2012 *DownBeat* Critics Poll for Jazz Group of the Year. Iyer's many other honors include the Alpert Award in the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, and numerous composer commissions.

Iyer's many collaborators include his generation's fellow forward-thinkers Rudresh Mahanthappa, Rez Abbasi, Craig Taborn, Ambrose Akinmusire, Liberty Ellman, Steve Lehman and Tyshawn Sorey; elder creative music pioneers such as Steve Coleman, Roscoe Mitchell, Wadada Leo Smith, Butch Morris, George Lewis, and Amina Claudine Myers; new-music experimenters Miya Masaoka, Pamela Z, and John Zorn; hip-hop innovators Dead Prez, Das Racist, DJ Spooky, and High Priest of Antipop Consortium; South Asian percussionist-producers Karsh Kale, Suphala, and Talvin Singh; filmmakers Haile Gerima, Prashant Bhargava, and Bill Morrison; choreographer Karole Armitage; and poets Mike Ladd, Amiri Baraka, Charles Simic, and Robert Pinsky. His compositions have been commissioned and performed by The Silk Road Ensemble, Ethel, Brentano String Quartet, JACK Quartet, American Composers Orchestra, Hermès Ensemble, International Contemporary Ensemble, and Imani Winds.

A polymath whose career has spanned the sciences, the humanities and the arts, Iyer received an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in the cognitive science of music from the University of California, Berkeley. He has published in *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, *Wire*, *Music Perception*, *JazzTimes*, *Journal of the Society for American Music*, *Critical Studies in Improvisation*, in the anthologies *Arcana IV*, *Sound Unbound*, *Uptown Conversation*, *The Best Writing on Mathematics: 2010*, and in the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Critical Improvisation Studies*. Iyer is on faculty at Manhattan School of Music, New York University, and the New School, and is the Director of The Banff Centre's International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music, an annual 3-week program in Alberta, Canada founded by Oscar Peterson. In January 2014 he will join the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University as the first Franklin D. and Florence Rosenblatt Professor of the Arts.

"Presto! Here is the great new jazz piano trio." - *The New York Times*

"one of the world's most inventive new-generation jazz pianists" – *Guardian (UK)*

"Vijay Iyer, an American treasure" – *Minnesota Public Radio*

"The Vijay Iyer Trio has the potential to alter the scope, ambition and language of jazz piano forever." - *Jazzwise (UK)*

"one of the best in the world at what he does" – *Pitchfork*

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We kindly request that you switch off your cellular phones, pagers, watch beepers, and any other electronic devices that could emit a potentially unwelcomed sound.

Thank you for your support!

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